



-- Understanding the cross begins with the understanding that Christ's death was a **VICARIOUS** death.

1 Peter 2:24, Hebrews 2:9, Hebrews 9:28).

-- Jesus paid the price we owe and took upon Himself the **CONSEQUENCES** that should have been ours on account of our sins.

-- **Big Idea: Jesus paid the full penalty of our sin and has broken the power of death.**

-- **How can God redeem sinners and remain a righteous God?**

-- If God rightly punishes our sins, then no one could possibly be saved, because we are all sinners (v. 23).

-- Yet we can be "*justified by his grace as a gift*" (v. 24).

-- *The cross of Christ is where God's perfect **LOVE** meets God's perfect **JUSTICE*** (v. 25).

-- In Christ's death on the cross we see clearly that God is our justifier who loves us (1 John 3:16, Romans 5:8).

-- Yet, it is in that same death that God carries out His righteous wrath against our sin (Romans 4:25, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

-- Only the sacrifice of someone infinitely holy could satisfy our infinitely treacherous debt. And the only Redeemer of infinite holiness is Jesus.

-- It is impossible to fathom how massive and magnificent is the **ATONEMENT** that took place as our Lord hung on the cross.

-- As Jesus is being nailed to the cross, there are literally thousands of years of human sin that had up to that point gone unpunished (v. 25).

-- There is also the impending weight of all the sins of everyone who would ever find atonement in Christ by faith (1 John 2:2).

-- As Christ breathes His last breath, it is finished. Our punishment is paid in full and our salvation is won in the vicarious death of Christ.

-- We celebrate today because the righteous power of Christ was greater even than the unfathomable weight of all our sin.

## Application

1.) Easter calls us to believe what God says about our **SIN**

-- *Do you know that you stand guilty before God and that forgiveness is what you need most?*

-- Easter summons us to repent of our sins and receive forgiveness as God's free gift to us in Christ.

2.) Easter calls us to place our **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-- Only Christ could assume our death sentence, because only He was not burdened with that same fate Himself.

-- The call of Easter is to acknowledge that salvation is possible in Jesus Christ alone, and it is possible only because He died in our place.

### 3.) Easter calls us to **NEW** life.

- By His resurrection, we are given the power to rise again.
- The call of Easter is to start living that new life in Christ today.
- Redemption is finished in Christ. Let it come alive in you!